US Army Corps of Engineers

HEADQUARTERS

ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION NEWS

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MAY'S THEME: International Engineering

DWIGHT'S NOTES

This month's theme is International Engineering. The Corps has had an international presence for as long as the Army has. On any given day Corps employees are serving on permanent or temporary duty in scores of countries. Most of us know about the international work done by the Europe, Japan, and Far East Districts. However, the Engineering and Construction presence in international engineering is not limited to those districts. The Mobile District has offices in various countries in Central America. The Pittsburgh District has just completed some work on the Panama Canal. And, wherever U.S. troops are located across the globe, there also you can find civilian personnel from the Corps of Engineers supporting the mission. As such the Corps plays a vital role in America's National Security Strategy, at home and abroad.

You may recall a speech a few years back which General Ballard made the case that the Corps needed to go global, just as the rest of the world has been doing. Taking up this call, people like Don Kisicki, have been working with the private sector, Administration and the Congress to empower the Corps to help American firms compete abroad. These initiatives have generated a new round of international activity that will grow over time. I've been fortunate to be one of the senior people supporting Don in this important endeavor. Bill Brown, Principal Assistant of Military Programs is another. Bill has travel extensively overseas negotiating with foreign leaders in Russia, Hungary, and, in a few weeks, in Nigeria, to bring the Corps to the doorstep of the world.

Even if you are not currently working overseas with the Corps of Engineers, you need to be familiar with the Corps capabilities and resources for international engineering. At any of the professional conferences around the country, you will find engineers from other countries. And as you are making presentations or manning a display, when a foreign engineer asks about the Corps, you need to be able to discuss how the Corps can assist them. Direct them to your division's new Business Development Office or the new Business Development Division in Military Programs for further assistance. If you get a chance personally to PCS or TDY outside the United States, I encourage you to do so. It will open your eyes to new opportunities and help spread the Corps goodwill beyond our shores.

On another note, we have just announced the new assignments of people within the two Engineering and Construction Divisions. Most are staying in E&C, albeit in new jobs and new locations. Over a dozen more are taking up new assignments with Business Development, Installation Support, Operations, Programs Management, Environmental Division and other HQ offices. As I've told the people moving out of E&C, once an E&C member, always and E&C member. I expect them to

continue to support the professional integrity of the Corps wherever they work. In spite of the turmoil all this has generated, I'm encouraged by the can do attitude our folks have taken adjusting to these changes. When we are settled into the new E&C structure and offices, and when the MSCs are settled into their complementary organizations, I'm convinced the Corps will have a more solid professional presence than with the fragmented structure of old. You may be dubious. But, let's take this challenge on together. It's important we succeed.

Lastly, the first week of May I attended ENFORCE 2000 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. ENFORCE brings the entire Army Engineer Regiment (DPW, USACE, and Combat Engineers) together in one place and time. A highlight of the conference was an address by the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Shinseki. The CSA told us about his vision for transforming the Army into a lighter, more mobile, more lethal force, able to fight and win in the full spectrum of engagements the Army would face in the future. He told us he wants the Army organized, equipped, trained and ready to win any battle, any time, any place, 90-0. The Army must adapt to the changing threats to our country. It's more than a battle for continued relevance. It's a battle for the survival of the Army. The Corps is part of that future Army. The lessons we must learn is that the challenges we face are also changing radically and rapidly, and therefore the Corps must adapt, as well, in broad strokes, at first, and in short bursts, periodically into the future. We also want to meet each and every future challenge, winning 90-0.

(Editors' note: If you want to share your thoughts with our readers regarding Dwight's Notes send an email to the E&C News editor (charles.pearre@usace.army.mil). A synopsis of your comments will be published in the next issue.)

ARTICLES

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Livable Communities

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The Corps actively promotes the use of its talents to support U.S. objectives overseas. These objectives, stated in the National Security Strategy, are shaping the international security environment, responding to threats and crises; enhancing American competitiveness, promoting sustainable development overseas; and, assisting emerging democracies.

We support these objectives primarily by providing reimbursable technical support overseas to DOD and non-DOD U.S. Agencies, private firms, other countries and international organizations such as the World Bank. Our support can cover the complete range of what we do in our traditional missions. As in our civil works and military programs, we accomplished much of our international work through contracts with private firms. We can provide training in our areas of expertise. We also engage in technical exchanges with other countries, contract with foreign researchers and manufacturers, and support U.S. treaty obligations. In some instances, we are authorized to use civil works appropriations such as in our water treaty cooperation with Canada. Overall, the Corps has about 300 activities underway in about 80 countries at any one time.

Activities range from the very large to the very small. Our largest single military project is a nuclear weapons materials storage facility valued at over $600 million in Russia for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Our Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Program for Egypt has a value of almost $1 billion. Under FMS we design and construct military facilities for friendly countries. We also have a large FMS program in the Middle East and in Latin America. In late March, the Government of Israel accepted the $200 million FMS Case for construction of military facilities in Israel related to implementation of the Wye River Accords. The largest civilian project we have underway is the $150 million road project for the U.S. Department of Interior in Palau. We also have a sizable program underway for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Central America assisting in reconstruction following Hurricane Mitch.

Managing large projects is not the only measure of value that the Corps provides to the National Security Strategy. Many times our value comes in much smaller ways. Whether you call it shaping the

environment, preventive diplomacy, or peace through engineering, the tool box of Corps talents is ideally suited to helping other countries enhance their economies through sustainable infrastructure development and to reduce situations that lead to conflict over shared resources. As one Army staff member said "The Corps of Engineers is Army's best opportunity for benign engagement with other countries".

We serve as the U.S. engineer for the U.S. Boundary Waters and the Columbia River Treaties managing our shared water resources with our Canadian partners and we support the International Boundary Waters Commission in our shared resources with Mexico. In South America, we are a trusted advisor to the State Department on issues concerning the Pantanal, the world's largest wetlands. In Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States, we are performing infrastructure assessments for USDOD on the Partnership for Peace program. In the Middle East, we continue to be a consultant for both the State and Defense Department on water resources. General Zinni, CINCCENT, identifies water as the number one security issue in his AOR. Our emerging water resources contact with Vietnam, funded by the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, was included as an example of US assistance during Secretary Cohen's recent trip to that country. We are part of an interagency group supporting the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy engagement strategy with China on water resources.

For the past few years, the Administration has focused attention on problems in long ignored Sub-Saharan Africa. Under LTG Ballard's leadership the Corps responded with interest and support and the response has been overwhelming within our government and African nations. Not only is the Corps an excellent example for African nations of a military agency that does positive things for its country, but we stand out from most other U.S. agencies in that we can actually help provide tangible results to improve the economies of developing countries.

Finding funds to pay for our involvement is sometimes a problem. Under Section 234 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, Congress responded and authorized limited use of civil works appropriations, and an enhanced means to accept other funds, to support U.S. agencies and international organizations on matters of national significance.

Supporting U. S. business is an important part of what we do overseas. Not only can we offer contract opportunities, but we also can help U. S. firms against foreign competition. In 1988, Congress provided us authority to offer our services on a reimbursable basis to U. S. firms competing for work overseas. This authority allows Corps expertise to be included in U.S. firms' proposals and has helped level the playing field against foreign firms that enjoy substantial support from their governments.

U. S. agencies or private firms seeking Corps support can directly contact individual Corps offices. Our "One-Door-to-the Corps" offices for overseas activities are CESPD for Mexico, CESAD for the Caribbean and Latin America, CENAD for Europe, CETAC for Africa and the Middle East, and CEPOD for Asia and the Pacific. Countries wanting Corps assistance should send their requests to the U.S. Ambassador who forwards the request with recommendations to the Corps. Reimbursable support is arranged through the execution of an appropriate agreement. Standard agreements can be found at the Interagency and Intergovernmental Support button on the organization chart on the HQUSACE home page. Corps offices that will be providing the support are required to gain concurrence from the appropriate US Embassy.

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Return to Index of Articles

INSTALLATION SUPPORT, MIDDLE EASTERN STYLE: INTERNS OFFERED A RARE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Architect and engineer interns are being given a unique experience to broaden their skills in the installation support business in the international environment. The Transatlantic Programs Center (TAC) has asked divisions and districts across the Corps to provide their interns with the opportunity to work at Army and Air Force facilities in Kuwait.

The first intern from outside of TAC, Michael Yu from Fort Worth District, recently completed a four-month tour in the Installation Support Office in Kuwait.

"This experience was incredibly rewarding," Yu said. "The ISO in Kuwait has a fast-paced environment where I saw projects from inception through completion. I worked in design and quality assurance under the guidance of seasoned professionals, who relied on me to perform my tasks correctly and in a timely manner to meet the customer's needs."

"I initially signed up for three months and then extended an additional month," Yu said. "This tour provided broad exposure to the various engineering processes and functions, in an international environment, where I had the opportunity to work directly with U.S. military members and with foreign contractors. I wanted to expand my engineering experience beyond the continental United States because of my belief that we must think and act globally. This assignment gave me an opportunity that I wouldn't have gotten stateside."

When TAC commander COL Tim Wynn solicited Corps offices last summer, he said that this intern training experience would provide "great value in terms of the variety of work experience, real time and real world tasks, and exposure to a foreign culture."

William Brown, Functional Chief Representative for CP-18, endorses this training experience for interns. "The Corps must maintain an overseas perspective if we are to remain responsive to the Army's needs. The opportunity for CP-18 interns to spend a few months in the Kuwait ISO provides our young engineers and architects with valuable experience serving the Army at a location where support is most needed. Down the road, when the Army calls for our support to deployments or other actions, personnel with prior overseas experience will be better prepared and, therefore, more responsive to those needs. I encourage all districts without an overseas component in their intern training programs to strongly consider the Kuwait ISO rotational assignment opportunity."

Impact Of The ISO Mission -- "It is unfortunate but a fact that Army and Air Force installations in Kuwait are generally understaffed for their mission," Wynn said. "They don't have the continuity of permanent staff generally found at U.S. installations. Recognizing this need, the Installation Support Office performs a variety of engineering and contracting tasks to help meet their quality of life and operational needs."

The Army uses Camp Doha, a former industrial warehouse complex that's been converted to an Army installation since Kuwait's liberation from Iraq. Air Force units operate in two sectors designated for their use at the country's two air bases, Ali Al-Salem and Ahmed Al-Jaber. U.S. forces are in Kuwait

as a result of country-to-country agreements, with the host nation involved in providing and funding the facilities.

The Installation Support Office, located at Camp Doha with about a dozen permanently assigned people, is a relatively new organization formed in January 1998. The staff of engineers, construction representatives, and contracting officers provides a full range of services to the Army Director of Public Works and the Air Force Base Civil Engineers.

"Interns assigned to Kuwait provide us with an excellent personnel source to supplement our quality assurance efforts, especially at the air bases," said COL Larry Ghormley, TAC's Gulf Regional Engineer who oversees all engineering programs in the Arabian Gulf region on behalf of U.S. Central Command. "Interns also have the opportunity to work in our design branch and to work with our contracting specialists who manage the job order contract (JOC) that provides most of the construction services for projects managed by the Corps at Camp Doha and the air bases.

"This work has a direct impact on the conditions for U.S. soldiers and airmen stationed in Kuwait," Ghormley said. "Interns who work at Al-Salem air base, for instance, are working on projects that provide critical support for the Air Force missions in the Gulf region."

Ron Rhodes, a TAC senior engineer on assignment in Kuwait, echoed this theme. "Our installation support business is on the front lines of U.S. military strategy in this region. We're supporting airmen who fly combat missions *every* day. We're supporting soldiers who are here in defense of Kuwait. Our installation support business has a sense of urgency that differs from a stateside installation."

Amanda Benes, a TAC architect intern, has spent time in Kuwait on two occasions. She said that improving the conditions for U.S. forces is gratifying.

"The conditions are austere at the air bases. For instance, within these tent camps where airmen live and work, they have to walk to the latrines," Benes said. "The installation of a prefabricated building or a trailer unit dramatically improves conditions. Even small projects - like the addition of walls and air conditioning - go a long way toward making these military members a little more comfortable when the temperature reaches 130 degrees in the summer."

Yashpal Kainth, ISO senior architect, Design Team leader, said that the work at the air bases "helps the base civil engineers achieve phased improvements of their facilities. In many cases, the work that's been done has been as an interim measure. The air force is gradually improving the facilities to ensure their needs are met."

Installation support is part of the Air Force's facilities equation. And it's an important part that helps provide a degree of constancy for the engineering needs at the air bases, Rhodes said. "The base civil engineering staffs rotate every 70 to 120 days. This rotation schedule requires constant attention to the customer's needs. Interns assigned here get this customer exposure."

What Interns Can Expect -- Interns who sign up for Kuwait can expect to be involved in all phases of design, contracting, and construction activities.

"For small projects, it is entirely possible that the intern will see it from start to finish," Kainth said. "In the design process, they participate in discussions with the customer, and they may be involved in all design phases. Then interns will get involved in the contracting process where they learn to prepare the request for proposal package that is sent to the JOC contractor, and they will learn to prepare estimates. Once the project gets to construction, they review shop drawings, participate in the field surveys, and provide quality assurance oversight."

With dozens of task orders open at any given time, interns won't see every project at its beginning. For those instances, Kainth said he spends the necessary time reviewing a project in detail with them. "When the intern is assigned a quality assurance job, it's useful for the intern to know how the design was developed. I spend time explaining these details before they go out on the job."

When the project transitions to construction, they go through a similar orientation with the quality assurance staff and are given specific responsibilities.

"With the rainy season this past Fall, we had an urgent project to design and install a temporary drainage system at the Air Force camp on Al-Jaber," Yu said. "The topography of the area contributed to the flooding that was occurring in the housing sector. I worked on this project from start to finish, with resolution required quickly. And we had to tie in the solution with the ongoing upgrade to the water and sewer systems."

WHAT THE WORK INVOLVES -- "Our installation support office operates almost entirely on operations and maintenance appropriations provided by the customers," said project manager Ron Tomechko. "Project workload is driven by the availability of funds, military actions, and anticipated needs. ISO operations can be affected by increases to the operational tempo of the military units in the theater."

Because of the varying factors, predicting long-term workload has been a challenge. When the job order contract was awarded in May 1998 to Kuwait Dynamics Ltd., a degree of uncertainty prevailed about how much it would be used.

"Since its award, we've placed $14 million worth of construction on this contract," said Robert Strom, project manager. "This is phenomenal, considering that we awarded the contract for one year with four option years, expecting the total amount of the contract not to exceed $25 million. And we're just in the second year of the contract.

"The work is accomplished via task orders, generally ranging between $100,000 and $300,000 each," Strom said. "Right now we have 35 quality assurance projects and 77 design projects.

"The enormous amount of work at the air bases has prompted the U.S. Air Force's request for a separate JOC for their work," Strom added. "This contract will

A typical JOC task is to construct offices in the large warehouse buildings that the Army uses at Camp Doha. The work includes partitions, drop ceilings, lighting, and all finishes.

likely be for five years, based on the Air Force's facility improvement plans."

The current contract provides a broad range of projects such as maintenance and repair, minor construction, utility and infrastructure upgrades, and base operations. Typical projects include offices, dining facilities, cold storage, water and sewer upgrades, access roads, power supply, trailers, pads, maintenance facilities, shops, aprons, and force protection measures.

Benes and Yu said they were both impressed with the pace of the work, stating that their normal 10-hour duty day flew by. "These were the most pleasant 10-hour days I've ever had," Yu said. "There simply wasn't enough time to get everything done, and I found the pace exhilarating."

Because of the fast nature of the projects, the engineering staff in Kuwait completes most designs. However, TAC's technical staff in Virginia has assisted on some projects. "Interns may find that they will be coordinating with TAC headquarters staff on various technical issues," Strom said.

This experience exposes interns to TAC's virtual office concept where work is accomplished at physically separated sites. "This allows engineers in Winchester and Kuwait to work on the same projects, and the process is facilitated because of our communications system connecting the two offices," said Mike Howell, Technical Directorate.

While the installation support business in Kuwait started with its share of uncertainties, this engineering tool is now being heavily relied on. "With the frequency of the Air Force rotations, we have become *the* continuity for helping the Air Force with its facility needs. We are delighted to have this responsibility," Strom said.

Why an Intern Should Consider an Overseas Assignment -- "I'd recommend that interns sign up for a tour in Kuwait for two reasons: to get career experience and to get international experience and exposure," Benes said.

"The professional opportunity is unparalleled. When I compare my work experiences to those of my college classmates, mine have been so much broader at this early stage of my career. The Corps' intern program is invaluable because of its exposure to all the engineering disciplines, as well as the project management and contracting processes.

The Army uses Camp Doha as a base of operations in Kuwait. The former warehouse complex has required upgrading of operational and quality of life facilities to meet the Army's needs. This is the entrance to the dining facility.

"I thoroughly enjoyed immersing myself in the culture, as well," Benes continued. "Where else can you get off from work and go watch the camel races? You can take advantage of the MWR (morale, welfare, and recreation) activities that are offered on Camp Doha – a weekend trip to Bahrain, or go boating, fishing, or snorkeling. Plus the traditional shopping areas are renowned for the rugs and gold, and Kuwait City has several upscale malls. While I often tired of eating at the Camp Doha mess hall, there are plenty of good restaurants of all types, with reasonably priced

food." Interns assigned to Kuwait live at Camp Doha where housing and all basic amenities are provided.

"I had never had this degree of exposure to life on an Army installation," Yu said. "I was pleasantly surprised by the Army's efforts to take care of its forces."

Interns live in "half" a trailer where they share bath facilities with another occupant. Food, laundry facilities, and transportation are provided. Like others assigned to Camp Doha, they're paid a modest amount of per diem ($3.50 per day). Of course, they're paid overtime.

"Money wasn't an issue for me," Yu said. "I wanted the international experience and everything that came with it. I'm grateful to my mentor in Fort Worth District who encouraged me to do this."

Interns interested in working in Kuwait should contact Philip Dinello, TAC's intern coordinator, at 540-665-3636 or Philip.l.dinello@usace.army.mil.

"The enthusiasm that these interns bring is refreshing," Rhodes said. "Their assignment is a learning experience for them. When they come in, we promise them exposure to design, construction, and contracting processes. We guide them, teach them, and endeavor to broaden their experience base, while giving them substantive work that contributes directly to the Corps' mission in Kuwait. The intern program is good for the intern, good for us, and good for the Corps."

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Return to Index of Articles

MAKING OUR WORLD SAFER THROUGH COOPERATION AND INNOVATION

In 1991 the disintegrating Soviet Union faced dramatic changes, and the resulting instability led to fears that its huge arsenal of nuclear weapons would fall into the wrong hands. Responding to the worldwide safety and security concerns, the U.S. Congress championed the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program in 1993 and is aimed at destroying weapons of mass destruction and establishing safeguards against the spread of those weapons.

A major project within the CTR program is the Russian Fissile Material Storage Facility (RFMSF). For this particular project, the US's ultimate goal is to facilitate the safe, secure and ecologically sound storage of fissile materials derived from the dismantlement of nuclear weapons in the Russian Federation. The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), which is the executive agent for the Defense Department's CTR program, asked the Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Programs Center (TAC) to manage the massive combined team effort to complete this enormous design and construction project.

Each member of this combined team has a unique role in the design, construction and operation processes. DTRA, as overall program manager, consolidates and streamlines all aspects of management and implementation of the CTR program. TAC acts as DTRA's right arm for the RFMSF. TAC oversees Bechtel National, Inc., which has been contracted to provide integrated design, equipment and construction services. Other U.S. organizations are involved to assure the safety and security of the facility, such as the Department of Energy, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Corps' Omaha District.

The Russian Federation has primary responsibility for the design and operation of the storage facility. Its team includes the Mayak Production Association, part of the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy; VNIPIET, the agency that leads the design efforts; and the South Urals Management Company, the Russian contractor performing construction.

From the roof of the administration building, looking toward the main storage building in the center of the picture, with the ventilation building to the right, in front of the main storage building.

The successful integration of all team members will provide a completely usable facility that will safely perform all intended functions. The primary functions of the storage facility are receive pre-packed fissile material containers, perform security, accountability and nondestructive assay checks, and load the material into long-term storage. Technologically advanced computer systems and other equipment are performing these primary functions. The equipment's degree of complexity varies from off-the-shelf units to items specifically designed, developed and fabricated for their intended purpose.

THE FLOW PROCESS -- Let's examine the incoming flow process of fissile material containers, along with some of the advanced equipment being used. Once a shipment of fissile material containers arrives, it is pulled into the entry vestibule secured at each end by large blast doors. Once the shipment is checked for radiation and potential intrusion devices, the interior blast doors are opened and the shipment proceeds into the unloading area. The fissile material containers are moved throughout the process by a series of one-ton and five-ton overhead cranes. The cranes have been designed and manufactured in accordance with NQA-1. NQA-1 is a stringent Nuclear Standard for nuclear material handling and lifting devices.

The long term storage area. The vertical cylinder in the center is an actual storage tube being installed. The fissile material containers will be stored in tubes like this one.

Two intensive software control packages have been developed to handle processing of the fissile material and control of building systems. The first system is the Material Control & Accountability (MC & A) system. The MC&A system is an integration of computer hardware and software and radiation detection equipment designed to verify that received fissile material matches what was shipped. The system determines the ultimate storage location of each container, performs re-verification, and ensures that all fissile material is properly accounted for. The MC&A system is the data entry and retrieval brain of the storage facility.

The second system, the Integrated Control System (ICS) integrates a series of computers, which monitor various subsystems such as the Emergency Containment Subsystem, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Subsystem and the Physical Protection Subsystem. There are a total of nine subsystems that provide continuous monitoring and then send status information to the ICS system control room.

Many steps occur before the fissile material containers ultimately arrive at its final storage destination. The final destination for this weighed; bar-coded and logged material is the Long-Term Storage Area. The Long-Term Storage Area is a large reinforced concrete nest, which resemble a honeycomb. It takes six concrete slabs to construct this storage nest. The overall volumetric size of the storage nest is 140 meters long by 25 meters wide by 6 meters thick or 21,000 cubic meters. The storage nest area has been design to withstand an earthquake with a magnitude of 7 on the Richter scale. The storage nest has the capacity to store 25,000 + containers for a period of 100 years. The containers are loaded into the nest by a specially designed and fabricated piece of equipment known as the Reloading Machine.

The Reloading Machine has a large bridge rail upon which the transfer unit travels. The transfer unit consists of a crane that has a shell designed to house a complete shroud (a shroud consists of four fissile containers, each in its own wire frame basket). To that unit is attached an operator control unit equipped with a closed circuit television camera (mounted on the telescoping hoisting device used for precision placement) and a complete control system. The control system has a combination of manual and semi-automatic operations that control speed, positioning, crane and telescoping device end positions. The Reloading Machine is also equipped with a separate radiation detection system for complete radiation monitoring of the shroud during loading and unloading. The reloading machine is currently in the design phase of development.

The equipment discussed here is only a small portion of the technical innovation being used on this project.

The overall design and construction of the Fissile Material Storage Facility is well on its way to completion as are a host of ancillary buildings such as administration, entry control, diesel generation and fire station. U.S. funding for the project has been incremental and will total approximately $400 million.

It has been a challenge to bring the United States and Russian Federation methods of design and construction to the table and marry the two systems together to ultimately obtain a complete, safe, secure and fully operational facility. The challenge has been unique and the resulting success will be equally as unique. Through cooperation and innovation, all members of the combined team are assured a successful completion of this project, which is schedule in 2002.

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Return to Index of Articles

PANAMA CANAL STUDIES

Technical experts from Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are bringing mid-American expertise to bear on the Central American challenges of the Panama Canal.

In cooperation with the Corps' Mobile District, employees from Pittsburgh have used talents they developed working in the headwaters of the Ohio River to help chart the future of one of the world's most strategic waterways, while solidifying Pittsburgh's reputation for engineering excellence. One case in point is the Panama Canal's hiring of a team of district hydrologists to conduct water pressure tests at one of its locks last summer.

Prior to the United States' December turnover of the Canal to the Panama Canal Authority, five district team members completed their work with the Canal Capacity Projects Office. They traveled to

Panama to work out a plan for measuring the pressures exerted by vessels and water during locking operations.

Pressure measurements are considered important for providing data that will help define structural requirements for future locks and uplifts and what steps can be taken to improve existing structures and operating modes.

Walt Leput, chief of the Hydraulics and Hydrology Section, and Jeff Liggett, hydrologic technician, traveled to Miraflores Lock in early April for preplanning. Later that month, a work team returned that included hydraulic engineers Ray Povirk and Ray Rush and hydrologic technicians Liggett and Dennis McCune.

"We wanted to find out how vessel motion affects water pressure in various locations inside the chamber; along the wall, at the miter gates and in the spilling area," according to Povirk.

But there's more to the international relationship than just a one-time contract. Panama needs to find new sources of water to feed the canal because forecasts show that ship transits and that demand for drinking water will increase sharply in the next fifty years. New dam locations are being investigated on rivers to the west of the existing watershed.

A Reconnaissance Study looked at a large number of possible future Panama dam sites. The study defined three dam sites, which would be connected by tunnels, to advance to the feasibility study stage. Because they are in remote locations with virtually no access, very little geotechnical background information is available.

The Pittsburgh District was tasked by the Panama Canal Commission to prepare boring plans and technical provisions for a drilling contract that the Panama Canal Authority will assemble and administer. Jim Brown, Pittsburgh District Geologist, traveled to Panama in September for a field investigation of the sites. He visited the sites with geotechnical personnel from the Panama Canal Commission and representatives from Harza Engineers, who will prepare the feasibility study. Brown said he enjoyed his five days in Panama investigating the potential dam sites by walking through jungles where the only access was by helicopter and sometimes boat. He felt that the challenge of working in an area where very little geologic information was available was most rewarding and that the interaction with other geotechnical experts of varied backgrounds was very stimulating.

Mobile District has the Corps' lead responsibility for supporting the work in Panama, but under the "one door to the Corps" philosophy has been able to arrange for support from other districts, notably Pittsburgh.

Dan Hitchings, chief of Engineering Division, sees the Panama work as both reflections of the district's professional reputation and as a means of maintaining the expertise that created that reputation.

"Our work on the Panama Canal demonstrates our technical excellence and world leadership in navigation facility engineering. The Panama Canal Commission requests Pittsburgh District to provide services that are unavailable anywhere else.

If you would like to learn more about the past, present and future of the Panama Canal, there is an excellent article in "Civil Engineering" Magazine's December 1999 issue. It was written by John C. Gribar, P.E., project director for the Canal Capacity Projects Office, and Jaimie A. Bocanegra, the manager of the Transition Management Staff, both with the Panama Canal Commission at that time. Also, you can access the Panama Canal website at http://www.pancanal.com/, which includes real time photos of ships locking through the canal, history and current news.

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Return to Index of Articles

TDY ASSIGNMENTS IN KUWAIT

The Transatlantic Programs Center (CETAC) provides ongoing personnel support to remote field offices in Kuwait. TDY personnel are presently meeting requirements, typically with a duration of 45 to 60 days. Immediate and anticipated needs are in the following disciplines: GS-810 Civil Engineer; GS-808 Architect; GS-810 Structural Engineer; GS-830 Mechanical Engineer; GS-850 Electrical Engineer; and all disciplines in Quality Assurance. While grades GS-11 through GS-13 are preferred, other grades will be considered. Duties include but are not limited to small design tasks, shop drawing reviews, design clarifications, construction oversight, and interface with foreign national engineers.

TDY personnel will require passport, military ID, country clearance, and immunizations. CETAC will provide guidance and assist travelers in meeting pre-travel requirements. If interested, available, and have your supervisor's approval, please respond with your name, address, phone number, and present job series and grade. Interested candidates are also encouraged to forward their current DA 2302, or other suitable resume, to Robert Koirtyohann, US Army Corps of Engineers, Transatlantic Programs Center, PO Box 2250, Winchester, VA 22604-1450.

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Return to Index of Articles

District of the Month

TRANSATLANTIC PROGRAMS CENTER

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Programs Center accomplishes a critical role in meeting our nation's engineering needs abroad. The Center delivers quality, responsive engineering services within its assigned area of responsibility of the Middle East, Africa and Russia. Customers within the region include deployed U.S. forces, other U.S. government agencies, and various agencies of friendly foreign nations.

Nestled among the Blue Ridge Mountains of northwestern Virginia, the Transatlantic Programs Center headquarters sits in sharp contrast to government organizations in the nation's metropolitan capital just one hour away. The Center's international work supporting Defense Department programs and U.S. government policies overseas tames that contrast.

The Transatlantic Programs Center has a rich half-century history of service to our nation. The Center has had diverse organizational configurations, names, and headquarters locations. The mission, however, has remained provide engineering design and construction management services to support U.S. programs abroad.

Earlier organizations were headquartered in Italy and Saudi Arabia. When a massive design and construction program began in Saudi Arabia in the early 1970s, the Corps established a stateside element near Winchester, VA, to manage the design.

In the mid-1980s the operations were expanded to include other Middle East and Africa projects supporting both U.S. and foreign customers. Within days of the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Corps was in the region supporting U.S. troops deployed for the Gulf War. The Transatlantic organization led the Corps' efforts then and later during Kuwait's recovery and reconstruction following the war.

Today, U.S. forces continue to protect national interests in this vital region. To support these interests, the top priorities for the Transatlantic Programs Center's 300 team members are meeting their engineering needs, improving their quality of life and providing operational areas for the military mission.

Support is provided to U.S. forces in the region as an enhanced presence in Southwest Asia is maintained to meet national security objectives. Since the Gulf War, meeting operational and quality of life needs has earned heightened importance. Newly developed force protection measures have dramatically increased engineering needs on host nation installations in the theater. Prepositioning equipment, materials and supplies in Southwest Asia reduces the need for strategic air and sealift when crises occur. The Transatlantic Center provides the design and engineering expertise for the Army's two prepositioning sites in Kuwait and Qatar -- a presence that results from government-to-government agreements.

The Transatlantic Center has teamed with the Army to convert Camp Doha, a former industrial warehouse complex, into a fully functioning installation. Additionally, TAC has worked with Army and Kuwait engineers to design a new installation that is being built by the Kuwait government. The Corps is providing quality assurance during construction.

While the Transatlantic Center's installation support office provides operations and maintenance services to Camp Doha, it also provides critical support to the U.S. Air Force compounds located on Kuwait's two air bases. The Air Force's austere presence is gradually being upgraded through installation of prefabricated buildings, facility and utility upgrades, and master planning for the long-term presence.

Facilities for US forces in Qatar

In Qatar, the Transatlantic Center will complete the third phase of construction on a $100 million prepositioning facility for use by the Army this summer. Operations and maintenance services are provided for these facilities, as well as for Air Force facilities previously built by Transatlantic Programs Center.

Further support is provided to the U.S. Navy where a sizable program is underway in Bahrain. Force protection measures play a significant role as quality of life is improved through housing, medical/dental clinic, and recreation facilities.

Elsewhere in the Middle East and Africa, the Transatlantic Programs Center provides engineering services to eligible foreign defense forces aimed at promoting regional stability and maintaining alliances.

Airfield Construction in Egypt

The Transatlantic Programs Center has had decades of experience with foreign military sales work in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Bahrain. Efforts have provided facilities design and construction for state-of-the-art air bases, naval installations, workshops, and storage areas. Today's largest FMS program is in Egypt with work supporting the Egyptian air force, navy, land forces and Ministry of Defense.

The Transatlantic Programs Center has worked in Africa since the early 1980s, providing planning, technical assistance, and procurement services for projects aimed at increasing the standard of living for military and civilian populations. Programs have included quality of life improvements such as housing and water programs, protection of plants and animals, and demining efforts. In Kenya, Transatlantic Center personnel are assisting with contracting and associated tasks in rebuilding commercial buildings destroyed by terrorist bombings. In recent initiatives, the Center is assisting HQUSACE with new outreach efforts in Africa.

In Russia, the Transatlantic Center is involved with the Defense Department's Cooperative Threat Reduction program, aimed at destroying weapons of mass destruction and establishing safeguards against the spread of those weapons. Working with the Russians to build a facility in the Ural Mountains to store materials recovered from dismantled nuclear weapons, the Transatlantic Programs Center is part of a multitude of participants from both the U.S. and Russian governments. The first phase will result in a fully operational storage facility, scheduled for completion in 2002.

Outside of the designated area of responsibility, Transatlantic Center provides contracting services to support U.S. Army operations in the Balkans. These services provide life support - food, shelter, laundry, and sanitation - and transportation and maintenance services for forces dedicated to the peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia and Kosovo. The Transatlantic Center awarded the contract to Brown and Root Services and administers it in partnership with the Defense Contract Management Command. This was a key component of the Engineer Regiment's efforts to get soldiers housed in wooden structures within three months of their entry into Kosovo.

The Transatlantic Programs Center has a profound impact around the world, improving quality of life, safety, and preparedness of today's military and contributing to accomplishment of our nation's overseas goals.

POC'S: OLLIE WERNER, CETAC-PD, 540-665-3796,
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AND WAYNE HENRY, CETAC-PD-T, 540-665-3635

Return to Index of Articles

Reorganization News

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION REORGANIZATION CONTINUES

On 12 May, the individuals in the current Engineering and Construction Divisions in Civil Works and in Military Programs received their notices concerning the realignment of the organization and the change of duty station to the Kingman Building in Alexandria, Virginia. The new Engineering and Construction Division will be effective on 16 July 2000. The relocation to the Kingman Building is scheduled to start around 12 September 2000. Prior to the activation of the new organization the four branch chiefs and the deputy division chief positions will be advertised. Because of the number of current branch chiefs in the two organizations, the area of advertisement will be limited to Civil Works and Military Programs. The new supervisors should be fully selected and in place by the middle of June. An organization chart for the new organization will be included in a future edition of this newsletter.

The transition team is continuing to work with the HQUSACE staff to insure that Engineering and Construction Division remains operational in the Pulaski Building after the GAO move until the move to the Kingman Building takes place. It is our desire that the reorganization occur without any disruption of business between Engineering and Construction and the field.

The design phase of the third floor at the Kingman Building is nearing completion. The current plan has 60 positions and the division chief located at the Kingman Building. Nine positions and the division chief will be located at the GAO Building. (Yes, Dwight gets two desks.) A state of the art audio visual conference room is being designed for the Kingman Building.

POC: CHARLES PEARRE, CECW-EP, 202-761-4531

Return to Index of Articles

Update

AGC Awards Contractors for Outstanding Projects

Last month we included an article on the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) 2000 Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Awards. At the same AGC convention the 2000 AON Build America Awards were presented. These awards, better known as the construction industry's "Oscar," have recognized excellence in construction since 1972. AON Risk Services is AGC's partner and sponsor of this prestigious program.

"The Build America Awards honor the best of the best. AGC and AON were proud to present the Build America Award to 13 commendable companies from throughout the United States," said AGC President Terry Deeny. "The AON Build America Awards promote excellence in construction,

innovation, quality and good old-fashioned hard work. All of these winners are deserving of the association's highest recognition."

The following awards were presented by AON Risk Services' Managing Director Peter Arkley and AGC President Terry Deeny at a special ceremony and dinner during AGC's 81st Annual Convention in Seattle (Category, Contractor, and Project):

- **New Building Construction -** Barton Malow/Beacon Skanska (joint venture) of Boston, MA, for the Shriners Burns Institute

- **Building Renovation -** Mosser Construction, Inc. of Fremont, OH, for the Valentine Theatre Renovation

- **New Building ($5 million and under) -** Hagerman Construction Corporation of Indianapolis, IN, for the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial

- **Building Renovation ($5 million and under) -** Douglas E. Barnhart, Inc. of San Diego, CA, for the Robert A. Fergusson Special Care Facility

- **New Heavy-Industrial -** General Construction Company of Seattle, WA, for the Bonneville Juvenile Bypass Outfall Structure

- **New Highway -** Kokosing Construction Company, Inc. of Fredericktown, OH, for the State Route 129/Butler Regional Highway

- **Highway Renovation -** F.E. Ward, Inc. of Vancouver, WA, for the Sunset Tunnel Emergency Repair on U.S. Highway 26

- **New Municipal-Utilities -** Advanced American Diving Service, Inc. of Oregon City, OR, for the East Bank Esplanade, Phase 1

- **Municipal-Utilities Renovation -** Cianbro Corporation of Pittsfield, ME, for Schaghticoke Water Conveyance Replacement Project

- **New Construction Management -** Hensel Phelps Construction Company of Austin, TX for Base Realignment and Closure for Fort Leonard Wood

- **Construction Management Renovation -** The Christman Companies of Lansing, MI, for the University of Notre Dame Main Administration Building Restoration and Renovation

- **Construction Management Renovation -** Gilbane Building Company of Providence, RI, for the New Jersey State House Dome Restoration

- **New Design-Build -** Gould Construction, Inc., of Glenwood Springs, CO, for the Grizzly Creek Diversion Structure and Pipeline

- **Design-Build Renovation** - J.S. Alberici Construction Company of St. Louis, Mo., and Black & Veatch for the Linnwood and Howard Avenue Ozonation Facilities

The following contractors were given a Build America Merit Award, the equivalent of a runner-up designation:

The Parent Company of Brentwood, TN, for the Renaissance Center

Rentenbach Constructors Inc. of Greensboro, NC, for The Holly Inn Historic Renovation

Angelo Iafrate Construction, L.L.C., of Baton Rouge, LA, for the I-10/I-12 Rehabilitation

Brasfield & Gorrie, L.L.C., of Birmingham, AL, for the Paul B. Krebs Water Treatment Plant

Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc., of Columbia, MO, for the Route 5, Chariton County Job No. J2P0265

The Build America Award is a 10-pound polished aluminum I-beam measuring 12 x 5 x 7.5 inches. The award has a bronze medallion depicting a construction site and is engraved with the company name and project name. The I-beam commonly symbolizes strength in the construction industry.

AON Risk Services is one of the nation's leading insurance brokerage and risk management services organizations. AON's Construction Services Division placed in excess of $1 billion in the insurance and surety marketplace in 1999.

POC: CHARLES PEARRE, CECW-EP, 202-761-4531

Return to Index of Articles

CORPS ACTIVITIES PREVENT $21,200,000,000 IN FLOOD DAMAGES IN FY1999

U.S. Army Corps of Engineer flood control projects and emergency activities prevented an estimated $21.2 billion worth of flood damages during fiscal year 1999. The total value of the damages prevented is below the ten-year average of $22.3 billion and well below the FY 97 record of $45.5 billion.

In its annual report to Congress, the Corps said that the monetary value of the prevented damages was near normal due to the low incidents of major storms over the Nation for the year. The good news is that with fewer floods in FY99 than normal, less damage occurred. However, the Corps still produced major benefits to the nation by preventing about 80 percent of the amount of the potential flood damages in FY 99.

In three major areas of the Nation -- North Carolina, New Jersey and Colorado -- the amounts of flood damages that were prevented were higher than normal.

The full report, complete with tables and figures, is available on the Internet at: http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/. It can also be reached from the Corps Home Page by clicking on Organization, Civil Works, Engineering, and 1999 Flood Damage Reduction.

Regional Distribution
Flood Damages Prevented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 1999 with Average for 10-year Period (in Thousands of Dollars)

REGION	FY99	1990-99 Average
NEW ENGLAND	29,147	51,262
MID-ADLANTIC	250,493	268,006
GULF & S. ATLANTIC	257,000	207,560
OHIO	281,676	986,248
TENNESSEE	5,017	58,229
GREAT LAKES	19,190	54,160
UPPER MISSISSIPPI	99,151	297,031
SOURIS-RED-RAINY	76,877	47,365
MISSOURI	5,111,491	3,207,486
ARKANSAS-RED-WHITE	688,697	333,237
LOWER MISSISSIPPI	12,507,805	11,692,399
RIO GRANDE	52,570	69,868
TEXAS AND GULF	626,317	2,665,420
COLORADO	8,931	42,839
GREAT BASIN	10,361	86,034
CALIFORNIA	87,235	885,710
COLUMBIA N PACIFIC	1,049,702	1,321,628
ALASKA	0	3,560
HAWAII & GUAM	0	2,571
TOTALS	21,161,659	22,328,770

POC: DAVID WINGERD, CECW-EH, 202-761-4531

Return to Index of Articles

BEING PROACTIVE IN A REACTIVE ENVIRONMENT

The District of Columbia Public Schools System consists of 147 schools and other school related facilities. In March 1998, an urgent request by the District of Columbia Superintendent of Schools activated the Baltimore District to assist the District of Columbia Public Schools Facilities Office in completing over 25 roofing projects and other urgent capital improvement contracts. It was "urgent" that these projects be completed during the summer of 1998 to allow for the schools to be ready for opening day in September 1998. In previous years, completion of work of this nature was untimely and the result was delayed school openings, unhappy parents, and routine bad publicity for the DC Public Schools. Despite this short notice, the Baltimore District was successful in filling this request and the schools opened on time for the first time in three years.

Since that hurried invited introduction into the DC Schools program, Congress has passed legislation to allow the Corps to contract work for the DC Public Schools. Although the primary mission for the Baltimore District is assistance in the Schools' Capital Improvements Program, which includes whole school renovations and new school construction, working on "urgent" requests has taken precedence. These urgent requests have included emergency lead and asbestos abatement, correcting health department and fire code violations, court-ordered work on ADA deficiencies, stabilizing and remediating damage caused by accidents or utility failures

Planning to react to urgent needs has become a high priority. The objective is to perform work as soon as possible. Task Order Contracting with numerous 8a contractors was initially implemented to speed acquisition times, but with increasing Corps intervention in emergency actions, alternative contracting tools were necessary to react quicker. An existing global Total Environmental Restoration Contract (TERC) proved to be a valuable resource to handle asbestos abatement work. Potential asbestos releases were being discovered more frequently as the assessments of the schools were being performed. Potential asbestos release situations always seemed to occur at the most inopportune times. Rapid response precludes school shutdowns, busing of children to alternative school locations and negative parent/press involvement.

The time sensitive work and unspecific scopes of the emergency related work paved the path for the utilization of Time and Material Contracting. Initially $100,000 purchase orders were issued to numerous contractors to get the ball rolling. This required a constant guard that the limit of each contract not be exceeded, cost controls/accounting measures be in place and that this contract vehicle not be misapplied for non emergency work. Four (4) 8a hazardous cleanup cost reimbursable contracts, with emergency response provisions, a $1M Time and Material Contract and a $15M JOC contract are other contracting tools that will shortly become additions to the District's proactionary tool bag.

The need to quickly identify problems and to get the correction promptly and properly implemented, without impact to the students, remains a constant challenge on the DC Schools Program. The Baltimore District has learned with this experience to be proactive in our efforts to bring discipline to a reactive environment.

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Return to Index of Articles

RMS WINDOWS DEPLOYMENT – FULL SPEED AHEAD!

Deployment of the Windows version of the Resident Management System is underway across all USACE divisions as we strive to achieve RMS deployment at all districts and all construction field offices by end of June 2000. Here's an overview of where we are and where we're going...

The RMS Center released version 2.25 of RMS Windows earlier this spring and deploying districts are now using this edition. While this version of RMS Windows does not have all features planned for the system, it contains a large amount of functionality and RMS 2.25 is now being used for "real production" work at districts.

For the past several months, we have been supplementing the formal deployment plans and guidance with conference calls among HQUSACE staff, the RMS Center and two different MSC's each week. The purposes of these calls are to provide real time, direct communication and feedback on deployment issues, and ensure that there is sharing of knowledge and experiences among RMS users. Details on RMS deployment are presented in the following paragraphs along with a discussion of the upcoming enhancements to the system.

Deployment Details: The deployment of a functional RMS (W) application is proceeding in two parts. The first part is to achieve an initial operating capability (IOC) where RMS (W) is installed in the district headquarters and at least two construction field offices. This IOC has been achieved in virtually all USACE districts in CONUS as well as overseas. Until recently, a key deployment issue centered around a decision on the most viable client-server architecture to be used by districts. The corporate solution to this issue was to allow each district the latitude of making its own best decision. The

choices were either use of MetaFrame “thin client” technology to access a data base server and application server at the CEAP center or establishing a MetaFrame application and database server configuration located at the district headquarters.

About 23 of the 41 USACE districts have chosen the CEAP MetaFrame “thin client” approach to support their RMS (W) deployment. The CEAP centers at Vicksburg and Portland are now receiving additional equipment and software to support RMS deployment at districts selecting this approach. These resources will be in place and operational at both locations by the third week of May. The RMS Support Center will be informing appropriate MSC and district deployment managers as to when districts may begin loading their users and their contracts on the RMS databases running on their servicing CEAP Center.

In the interim period, districts can continue executing plans to get potential RMS users identified, logged in via UPASS, trained on the RMS (W) application, and existing RMS (DOS) or other existing data converted. District and MSC RMS deployment managers should coordinate with their information management counterparts to insure that proper user lists and passwords are in place to support the operation of RMS on the respective CEAP center or district server. Finally, each district should review and firm up strategies and plans to be fully deployed by the end of June 2000 as laid out by MG Fuhrman, USACE's DCG.

RMS Enhancements: Additional enhancements to RMS are being incorporated, concurrent with RMS deployment. Developers have already phased in the improvements to the Current Construction Working Estimate (CWE) structure, upgraded several features of the financial management features, including providing the option to track funding at either the total contract level or at the individual CLIN level. The RMS Center is now completing the development of a basic contractor module version of RMS (designated as RMS-QC) for inclusion in the late June release.

The RMS Team at HQUSACE, together with the RMS Support Center in Apple Valley, CA also has been working with the PROMIS team to finalize and test the PROMIS interface. The RMS-PROMIS interface will allow RMS to share construction-phase information with the entire project delivery team, and in turn with users of the Project and Program Delivery System, PPDS, which accesses the PROMIS and CEFMS databases for its information. Several high-priority database changes are being made to PROMIS. These PROMIS changes needs to be completed before the interface can be released. This PROMIS-RMS interface release is now planned for the end of June.

More recently, a major effort has been focused on the RMS interface with the Standard Procurement System (SPS). The SPS is the DOD product that replaced SAACONS as the standard automated contract management system. MG Fuhrman, the USACE Deputy Commander sent out a memorandum on 6 August 99 to MSC commanders discussing the integrated plans for RMS and SPS deployment in USACE. A key part of this strategy is to develop the RMS-SPS interface. This interface will avoid duplicate entry of construction contract modifications (mods) in SPS and facilitate initial electronic entry of new awards into RMS. The RMS-SPS interface will also transfer contract modifications approved by the ACO to the SPS database. Mods prepared for the procuring contracting officer's (PCO) approval will also transfer to SPS. RMS will receive new construction contract awards and PCO mods via this RMS-SPS interface. The official mod number for modifications signed in the construction field office will be assigned by SPS and provided to RMS via the interface. The RMS-SPS interface is on schedule for deployment to the field in June of this year.

Other features coming on line are changes to accommodate foreign currency requirements for Korea, Japan, and Europe Districts, enhanced user controls, Word macros to assist in preparing correspondence needed at the construction field office level, a placement projection module, and a full RMS User Manual. Supplemental post-deployment training is also being scheduled at the request of selected sites. Contact the RMS Center for details.

More updated information on RMS and deployment activities are posted on the RMS website (winrms.usace.army.mil) (note: parts of the RMS site are public and other parts are password protected. See your district RMS deployment manager for password details.)

Overall, the combined hard work by districts, division, RMS Center staff and other partners have positioned us to achieve the RMS deployment goals. Everyone associated with this effort should be proud of his or her accomplishments to date. At the same time, each of us needs to "keep on paddling hard" to get this management tool fully deployed. In turn, full deployment will position district users to reap the benefits of a standardized, modern management information system to support the critical construction management phase of the product delivery system.

POC: JIM LOVO, CEMP-EC, 202-761-4804

Return to Index of Articles

IMPORTANT EFARS CHANGES CONCERNING A-E CONTRACTING

Some important changes to the Engineer Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (EFARS) concerning A-E contracting were recently issued. The changes affect A-E selection and performance evaluation, and were issued by PARC Instruction Letter (PIL) 2000-9. PIL's are available from your contracting division. The current and complete EFARS, including these changes, can be found on the PARC homepage at: http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepr/asp/acquisition/efars.asp.

There are three notable changes concerning A-E selection (EFARS 36.602-2 and 36.602-4):

1. In March 1998, Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 236.602-4 was revised to eliminate the burdensome and confusing rules regarding A-E selection approval. The recent EFARS revision implements this DFARS change in USACE. The previous EFARS restrictions and thresholds on delegation of A-E selection authority are eliminated. Division commanders can now delegate A-E selection authority in any appropriate manner.

2. The special rules for A-E selections for medical facilities have been eliminated. Hence, selection boards and selection approval will follow the same process as all other types of projects.

3. Private practitioners of architecture, engineering and related professions can now serve on A-E preselection and selection boards. This change is particularly applicable for civil works projects where a local sponsor does not have an in-house engineering staff and wants a private engineer or architect to represent the sponsor's interests during A-E selection. However, in accordance with FAR 36.602-2(b), a firm can not be eligible for award of an A-E contract during the period in which any of its principals or associates is participating as members of an A-E evaluation board.

There are two important changes concerning A-E performance evaluations (EFARS 36.604):

1. The EFARS now requires that an individual evaluation be prepared for each indefinite delivery contract task order exceeding $25,000. Previously, an interim cumulative evaluation of all completed

task orders was required at the end of each contract period (but at least annually) and a final cumulative evaluation was required after contract expiration. Also, an individual evaluation was required for each task order over $500,000. This policy was not been well understood and was not practical. Different people are often involved with each task order, and blending the performance on many orders into one composite evaluation was difficult. The evaluation of each task order upon its completion is a more practical and timely approach than preparing composite interim and final evaluations of all task orders. Also, this approach allows the scope and performance of each order to be specifically reflected, which provides more useful information in future selections than a composite contract evaluation.

2. An interim annual evaluation is now required when the period of performance for an A-E fixed-price or cost-reimbursement contract or a task order exceeds 12 months. Interim evaluations of lengthy A-E contract actions will provide timely and current information for A-E evaluation boards.

Contact the undersigned POC if you have any other suggested changes to the EFARS.

POC: DON EVICK, CEMP-EC, 202-761-1053

Return to Index of Articles

Dam Safety

SUBMISSION OF ENGINEERING APPENDICES

In a memorandum dated 14 March 2000, the requirement to submit copies of the Engineering Appendix of Decision Documents for Washington level review was deleted. This change did not eliminate the Engineering Appendix from the Decision Document; it only reduced the material to be submitted for a Washington level review. The following is quoted from that memorandum:

"An Engineering Appendix is an essential part of decision documents for Civil Works projects. As such it should be fully developed to the extent appropriate to define the scope of the project and develop the baseline cost estimate. The Engineering Appendix shall be included and published with the official copy of the decision document and with copies of the decision document furnished to support Project Cooperation Agreements."

"Since the technical and policy review of the Engineering Appendix has been delegated to the Major Subordinate Commands (MSC's) and the District Commands, the Engineering Appendix is no longer required to accompany decision documents submitted for policy review at the Washington level. An electronic copy of the appendix should be available at the district during the review period in case portions of the Engineering Appendix are required to explain information in the basic report."

In addition to the above, the districts and MSC's should remain aware of the requirements of Section 1202 of WRDA'86 (PL 99-622). That section requires any report submitted to Congress for the purpose of authorizing or funding the "construction of a water impoundment facility, shall include information on the consequences of failure and geologic or design factors which could contribute to the possible failure of such facility." This requirement can be met by including the analysis in the Engineering Appendix and a summary of the consequences in the recommendation section of the main body of the report. The independent technical review of the decision document should identified and

confirm that the requirements of Section 1202 have been met. The MSC's should include a spot check for compliance with Section 1202 in their quality management audit procedures.

POC: CHARLES PEARRE, CECW-EP, 202-761-4531

Return to Index of Articles

USCOLD ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting of the U.S. Committee on Large Dams will be held in Seattle, Washington, from 11 – 14 July 2000. The theme of the two-day lecture program is Operation, Maintenance, Repair and Rehabilitation of Dams. The opening session will include an update on the National Dam Safety Program by Don Bathurst of FEMA and Current Activities of The World Bank by Alessandro Palmieri. The technical presentations represent the full range of electrical, mechanical, structural, materials and civil engineering activities associated with O&M. Technical tours (Seattle City Lights and Corps projects) focusing on O&M will follow the lecture. Registration forms will be available in early May – contact Larry Stephens of USCOLD (303) 628-5430.

POC: ART WALZ, CECW-EG, 202-761-8681

Return to Index of Articles

JOINT DAM SAFETY EMERGENCY EXERCISE HOSTED BY NASHVILLE DISTRICT

An interagency dam safety exercise was held 13 April 2000 at Center Hill Dam, east of Nashville. The exercise simulated response to a major earthquake at Nashville District's Barkely Dam and TVA's Kentucky Dam. Approximately 75 people participated, representing USACE, TVA, Tennessee and Mississippi Emergency Management Agencies and the U.S. Coast Guard. The exercise highlighted the importance of establishing good interagency relationships, maintaining current contact lists, having alternate communications methods, developing emergency contracting mechanisms and relationships, and the benefits of regular exercises to ensure that proper understanding of emergency procedures exists. Other interagency cooperative activities will be scheduled later this fiscal year.

POC: KATHY GRIMES, CELRN-ED-G, 615-736-7366

Return to Index of Articles

Information

WHAT IS OMBIL?

The OMBIL is an acronym for the Operations and Maintenance Business Information Link. OMBIL provides a single gateway to business information and knowledge for all of the Operations and Maintenance community from the individual projects to the national level. This includes budget and expenditure information on a monthly basis and numerous automatically generated performance measures. Also business function information related to navigation, hydropower, recreation, natural resources, flood damage reduction and environmental compliance are integrated from various other system providing a single place to acquire, review and compare with other projects and districts your performance. All Corps personnel have access to OMBIL and the intent is to eliminate data calls for information.

How can I learn more about OMBIL? -- For more information on OMBIL, you can visit the website at http://ombil.usace.army.mil/. Also, consult with your operations staff on the upcoming schedule for workshops on OMBIL demonstrations and hands on training.

POC: BRUCE WALLACE, CECW-EP, 202-761-8890

Return to Index of Articles

CRANE CERTIFICATION

Inspection of cranes and derricks shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Inspection shall be conducted by a qualified person, who by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or extensive knowledge, training, and experience, has successfully demonstrated his or her ability to solve or resolve problems related to the subject matter, the work, or the project. The inspection shall cover, at the minimum, the items listen in Appendix H (EM 385-1-1, 3 Sep 96, paragraph 16.C.12).

There are no Federal OSHA regulations requiring the certification of cranes, derricks or other material handling devices used solely in construction operations (covered under 29 CFR 1926.550), or used solely in general industry operations (covered under 29 CFR 1910.179 and 1910.180). Therefore, cranes, derricks, and material handling devices used exclusively in general industry or construction operations are not required, under OSHA regulations, to be certified by anyone. However, OSHA certification requirements applies only to the certification of certain cargo handling gear and material handling devices used in maritime operation and covered by 29 CFR Part 1919 (information is based on OSHA's Standards Interpretation and Compliance Letters, dated 02/01/1993 - Inspection of Cranes Used at Construction Sites).

a. OSHA allows wide latitude in the regulations as to the definition of a "ficompetent person". A competent person can be the equipment owner's maintenance personnel or any other person the owner chooses, as long as that person is deemed "competent." A competent person does not have to be a disinterested third party.

b. Section 29 CFR 1926.32 defines many of the terms used in the construction safety and health regulations including many used in the sections pertaining to crane safety. Subsection (b) defines a "competent person" as one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards involved and is authorized to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.

POC: VICKIE SIEBERT, CESO-O, 202-761-8548

Return to Index of Articles

INTERIM CHANGE TO ER 1110-2-100

On 15 April 2000 an interim change to ER 1110-2-100, Periodic Inspection and Continuing Evaluation of Completed Civil Works Structures, was issued to be effective immediately. This change deleted the requirement for the MSC to submit an information copy of the inspection reports to HQUSACE.

In lieu of the information copy, the district shall submit an electronic executive summary of each Periodic Inspection Report to HQ-DamSafety@hq02.usace.army.mil within 90 days of the completion of the on-site inspection. The content of the electronic executive summary is shown in Enclosure. Once the inspection data section of the Flood Damage Reduction section of the Operations and Maintenance Business Information Link (OMBIL) is finalized, additional instructions will be issued for entering the information into OMBIL instead of transmitting the summary as an email message.

This change in submission of a copy of the reports to HQUSACE did not change the requirement for the preparation of a formal report. Also, when the summary was required within 90 days of the inspection, it was recognized that the formal report might not be completed at that time and that some summaries might have to be revised at a later date. The purpose for obtaining the summaries at HQUSACE is to catalog deficiencies in order to analysis recurring or systemic problems.

POC: CHARLES PEARRE, CECW-EP, 202-761-4531

Return to Index of Articles

RESIDENT ENGINEER VACANCY

The Buffalo District has announced a resident engineer vacancy at the Plum Brook Resident Office in Ohio. The position is a Supervisory Civil Engineer (GS-0810-13) and the announcement number is FT006826. The position is open until 24 May 2000 through the Northeast CPO.

The individual selected for the position will serve as the Resident Engineer in charge of the Plum Brook Resident Office responsible for management of all field and office engineering activities related to the decommissioning of the Plum Brook nuclear reactor. Decommissioning activities include startup, contaminated soil removal, asbestos, lead paint, and equipment removal, removal of activated material in the Hot Dry Storage Area, reactor internals and tank, piping, concrete, and other building materials. High public and governmental visibility and the hazards and issues regarding the handling, manifesting, and disposal of radiological and hazardous waste are factors that add further complexity to the project.

A full copy of the announcement can be obtained at http://www.cpol.army.mil/ by clicking on "Employment" then "Army's Vacancy Announcements" and entering the announcement number FT006826.

POC: CATHEY O'CONNER, CELRBHR-P, 716-879-4451

Return to Index of Articles

ENGINEERING APPENDIX TO DECISION DOCUMENTS

In a recent memorandum, MG Van Winkle, Deputy Commander for Civil Works, notified the Major Subordinate Commands (MSC), that submission of the Engineering Appendix to decision documents to HQUSACE for policy review was no longer required. The purpose of this change is to reduce printing costs for the decision documents.

An Engineering Appendix is an essential part of decision documents for Civil Works projects. As such it should be fully developed to the extent appropriate to define the scope of the project and develop the baseline cost estimate. The Engineering Appendix shall, also, be included and published with the official copy of the decision document and with copies of the decision document furnished to support Project Cooperation Agreements.

Since the technical and policy review of the Engineering Appendix has been delegated to the Major Subordinate Commands (MSC's) and the District Commands, the Engineering Appendix is no longer required to accompany decision documents submitted for policy review at the Washington level. An electronic copy of the appendix should be available at the district during the review period in case portions of the Engineering Appendix are required to explain information in the basic report. The policy review of the Engineering Appendix should occur along with the independent technical review.

The MSC's should include a spot check of Engineering Appendices in their quality management audit procedures.

POC: CHARLES PEARRE, CECW-EP, 202-761-4531

Return to Index of Articles

A-E CONTRACTING WEBSITE

The A-E Contracting website has been recently updated and improved. One improvement is a link to the various articles on A-E contracting that have been published in the Engineering and Construction Newsletter. The other main improvement is a link to various related websites such as the Commerce Business Daily, Standard Forms 254/255, and the Defense Acquisition Deskbook. The A-E Contracting website is at: http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cemp/c/a-e_contract.htm

POC: DON EVICK, CEMP-EC, 202-761-1053

Return to Index of Articles

Training

PROSPECT 2001

The FY2001 Proponent Sponsored Engineer Corps Training (PROSPECT) program training needs survey was disseminated to training coordinators on 27 April 2000 for Corps-wide distribution. The survey and Purple Book can be downloaded from the web site http://pdsc.usace.army.mil. Hardcopy and CD-ROM versions have also been mailed.

The survey, which includes technical training and professional development courses in a variety of mission areas, closes on **15 June 2000**. Requirements received after that date will be accepted and incorporated on a space available basis.

You may visit the website for additional information on distance learning courses available through the USACE Virtual Campus.

Please contact the registrar at 256-895-7469 if you have questions about the program.

POC: MARILYN LANG, CEHR-P-TO, 256-895-7426

Return to Index of Articles

FY01 EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

The Directorate of Human Resources has issued a call for Executive Development Funding requirements for FY01. Requirements should be consolidated by the MSC, with the Chief of Staff consolidating HQ's needs, and forwarded to reach CEHR-D by 14 June 00. Please keep in mind that the intended use of these funds is to provide management and leadership training opportunities for GS-13 – SES staff members. High performance GS-12s should be considered. The focus should be on programs to help develop a high quality managerial workforce to maintain our organizational quality and stability. Examples of programs funded for FY00 are listed below.

SWD: Emerging Leader's Program, $32,875.
MVD: Executive Development Program, $20,500
LRD: Leadership Development Program, $40,000.
NWD: Management Intern Program, $25,000.

District and MSC request for funding should include a narrative description of your proposed program, projected benefits, a POC for additional information, and a cost estimate. If you have questions, please call Beryl Dixon, 202-761-0555, or Marilyn Jerrell, 202-761-5004.

POC: BERYL DIXON, CEHR-D, 202-761-0555

Return to Index of Articles

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANIFEST TRAINING

The 2001 PROSPECT survey is out. If you need hazardous waste manifest initial or refresher training, sign up for it during the survey.

In addition, there is a course that discusses all the RCRA and CERCLA cleanup requirements and processes, HTRW CERCLA/RCRA course # 356.

There is also course 398, Environmental Regulations Practical Application. This is a good course to learn all about the regulations and how they apply at corps military, civil and HTRW sites.

Lastly there is a new course, number 427, Environmental Requirements for Corps Construction Projects. This course discusses the regulations applicable to Corps construction activities at civil works, military and HTRW sites. It is based on and discusses the requirements of newly revised Environmental guide spec 01355. This is a 2-day course.

POC: SANDI ZEBROWSKI, CENWO-HX-T, 402-697-2562

Return to Index of Articles

Open Discussion and Comments

ASCE REDUCED COST MEMBERSHIPS

Question Received from Omaha District: I need some help---within the past 2 to 4 months there were a couple messages from OCE about reduced cost ASCE memberships to Corps employees. Someone is now asking about this, but I have deleted it from my email. Could you help me out?

Response: CECW-E checked with ASCE HQ and they indicated that there was a deal going on between the Corps and ASCE where new members could receive a 25-35% discount on the membership (which is approximately $140). Supposedly the bargain expired on 12/31/99, and the previous Membership director informed us that there has been quite a bit of reorganizing in ASCE HQ lately, but stated that perhaps the date can be extended if there is a request. Let us know if someone is still interested, and we will see what can be worked out.

POC: BOB BANK, CECW-EP, 202-761-1660

Return to Index of Articles

WEB BASED DISCUSSION GROUP FOR MAINTENANCE ITEMS

Question Received from Little Rock District: At the ICODS spillway gates seminar, an engineer from Little Rock asked about establishing a website and/or on-line discussion groups to share information. This could allow Districts to exchange ideas for project maintenance, or answer questions about how others have solved particular problems. This could really create efficiencies in information exchange, and prevent us from "reinventing the wheel" over and over. Current web technology makes

this a viable alternative to improve our maintenance processes and decrease costs. The site could be maintained by one of our laboratories.

Response from CECW-O: There was a similar discussion at the last MSC Construction-Operations chiefs meeting. A similar project was underway and the group decided to put it on hold. Too many other things on their plates at present. However, Southwestern Division has very recently started a "lessons learned" bulletin board type system in the Operations chain. The engineer should talk with Mike Miller, Operations chief in Little Rock, or Jerry Smith, Operations chief in Southwestern Division. I'm sure they would be willing to share the wealth.

Additional Response: In the September 1999 E&C News there was an article about a set of news groups that CENWD has set up. These might provide a method that could be used with the O&M community also. That article is available at http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwe/notes/sep99.pdf.

POC: CHARLES PEARRE, CECW-EP, 202-761-4531

Return to Index of Articles

(Editors' note: If you want to share your thoughts with our readers regarding a subject of general interest, send an email to the E&C News editor at charles.pearre@usace.army.mil. A synopsis of your comments will be published next time).

Editors' Notes

SUBSCRIBE TO ECNEWS

Engineering and Construction News uses a subscription list on the Corps List Server. The name of the list is LS-ECNEWS. The purpose of the list is to distribute the Civil Works and Military Programs Engineering and Construction community newsletter, *Engineering and Construction News*.

You can subscribe or unsubscribe to LS-ECNEWS by sending an e-mail message to majordomo@usace.army.mil with no subject line and only a single line of text in the message body. That single line of text should have the following format: **subscribe ls-ecnews** or **unsubscribe ls-ecnews**. The List Server system will automatically pick up your originating e-mail address from the message and add it to or delete it from the distribution list.

If you have any questions about the list server, see the List Server E-Mail Delivery System web page at http://eml01.usace.army.mil/other/listserv.html. Or you may contact either Denise Massihi or Charles Pearre if you have additional questions on the subscription list.

POC: CHARLES PEARRE, CECW-EP, 202-761-4531

Return to Index of Articles